

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

NOVEMBER 22, 2005

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on November 22, 2005, **W. DAVID ROMMEL D.D.S.**, age 54, of Lakeview Lane in Benton, Illinois, which is within the Southern District of Illinois, was sentenced in federal district court in Benton, Illinois, to 63 months' incarceration in the Bureau of Prisons, 3 years supervised release, and ordered to pay a \$20,000 fine, and \$1,654,213.50 in restitution and forfeiture. **ROMMEL** was found guilty of Mail Fraud in violation to 18 United States Code Section 1341, and Health Care Fraud in Violation of Title 18 United States Code Section 1347, after a nineteen day trial in Benton, Illinois. The offenses occurred between September of 1999 and March of 2003 in Benton, Illinois where **ROMMEL** had operated a dental practice. The dental practice is now closed.

According to the evidence presented at trial, **ROMMEL** engaged in a series of actions that defrauded the Illinois Department of Public Aid, including performing and attempting to perform unnecessary dental procedures on healthy teeth and billing for procedures that were either not performed or were not performed as he claimed. The majority of his patients were adolescents.

The investigation was conducted by the Southern Illinois Health Care Fraud Task Force, with the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, leading the investigation. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael J. Quinley, Mike Thompson, and Ranley R. Killian.